IN THE CLAIMS:

(Currently Amended) A process for preparing isocyanates comprising preparing a phosgene have a content of bromine or iodine or a mixture thereof in molecular or bound form of less than 50 ppm reacting an amine or a mixture of two or more amines with the phosgene containing a positive amount of less than 50 ppm of bromine or iodine or their mixtures in molecular or bound form thereby forming an isocyanate.

(Currently Amended) A process as claimed in Claim-1, wherein the phosgene contains a positive amount of less than 25 ppm of bromine or iodine or mixtures thereof in molecular or bound form.

(Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

4. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

5. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

6. (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

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- 7.\ (Cancelled)
- 8. (Cancelled)
- 9. (Cancelled)

10: (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

(Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

(Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

13. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

14. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

16. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

47. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric or atmospheric pressure.

18. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

19. (Original) A process as claimed in Claim-5, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

- 20. (Cancelled)
- 21. (Cancelled)
- 22. (Cancelled)
- 23. (Cancelled)

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24. (Cancelled)